

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 07509 121831Z

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ST-01 A-01 OPR-02 /017 W

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R 121550Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3826

UNCLAS MOSCOW 7509

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: ASUP AMGT AFSP PFOR UR US

SUBJECT: VEHICLES FOR NEW AMCONGEN KIEV

1. WITH US ADVANCE PARTY TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED TO BEGIN ARRIVING IN KIEV JULY 1976, REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S REVIEW OF OFFICIAL VEHICLE PLANS AND GUIDANCE. AS WE UNDERSTAND CURRENT THINKING, TWO OFFICERS ARE EXPECTED TO PROCEED TO KIEV (ONE POSSIBLY ON TDY) IN JULY, WITH TWO MORE OFFICERS AND ONE SECRETARY TO FOLLOW IN AUGUST/SEPTEMBER.

2. TWO FACTORS LEAD US TO PROPOSE INITIAL USE OF SOVIET VEHICLES:
(A) LEAD TIME FOR US CARS AND (B) INITIAL DIFFICULTIES REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE ANY US VEHICLES, WHICH ARE NOW NON-EXISTENT IN KIEV. IN LONGER RUN, AS PERSONNEL BUILD UP AND OPERATIONS APPROACH FULL SCALE, WE FORESEE SMALL GARAGE AT CONGEN BACKED BY EMBASSY WHICH WOULD MAINTAIN US-MADE VEHICLES, BUT IN BEGINNING WITH NO SPACE, NO MECHANICS AND FEW PEOPLE IN KIEV, IT WILL BE ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO COPIE WITH 55 MILE DISTANCE KIEV-MOSCOW. PROBLEMS WILL BE AGGRAVATED BY EMBASSY'S OWN SHORTAGE CARS, DRIVERS AND REPAIR SPACE.

3. WE WOULD THEREFORE RECOMMEND INITIAL PURCHASE ONE SOVIET SEDAN AND ONE STATION WAGON. VOLGA MODELS, EQUIVALENT TO SMALLER US COMPACTS APPEAR APPROPRIATE, COSTING APPROXIMATELY DOLLARS 2,250 FOR SEDAN AND DOLLARS 3,300 FOR WAGON.

4. PLEASE ADVISE.

STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PFOR UR US, ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICES, AUTOMOBILES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 MAY 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MOSCOW07509
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760183-0978
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760563/aaaacbw1.tel
Line Count: 51
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 1
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CollinP0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 JUL 2004 by wolfsd>; APPROVED <19 JAN 2005 by CollinP0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VEHICLES FOR NEW AMCONGEN KIEV
TAGS: ASUP, AMGT, AFSP, PFOR, UR, US
To: SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006